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FOR THE CHILDREN

Duck on a Rock.

This game has been the delight of many generations of boys. A large rough stone is chosen for the "rock," and each player provides himself with a stone—about as large as can be conveniently held in the hand. A line is then drawn about ten or twelve yards from the block, beyond which is "home."

They then "pink for duck"—that is, each boy throws his stone toward the rock, and the one whose stone is farthest from it becomes "it" and must place his stone on the rock as a mark for the rest. This is the first "duck."

After placing his stone on the rock "it" stands near by. The rest in turn throw their stones so as to try to knock off the duck stone. When one succeeds there is a general stampede for "home," but if "it" can replace his stone and then touch any one before he passes the home line the one touched is "it" and places his stone on the rock for the rest to throw at.

Occasionally a fleet runner, so touched, will put his stone on the rock and touch the former "it" before he has had time to get his stone and reach "home." If all the stones fall to dislodge the "duck" their owners cannot touch them. They are forfeited to "it" and must make terms with him to recover their stones and carry them "home."

One may be allowed to "jump" home—which means to hold the stone between the feet, and, so loaded, hop home. Another may ask the privilege of "kicking." The stone is worked on to the foot, without using the hands, and kicked homeward. Or "heeling" may be allowed. This is a backward kick of the stone toward home, made with the heel. While the test is going on no other players may go "home."

The right to try these various tests is eagerly sought, and the first one who falls to get his stone home must become "it."

The Mysterious Problem.

The performer displays a large sheet of white paper, calling attention to the fact that it contains no writing or marking of any kind. This is suspended from a frame or rested against an easel in full view of the spectators. Then the entertainer addresses the audience and requests them to think of a number. This being done, they are asked to multiply the number thought of by 2. The next step in the process is to add 6 and then to divide the result thus obtained by 2. Next, direct them to subtract the number originally thought of and to add 4 to the final result. The conjurer then applies a match to the paper, which is seen to burn up with the exception of a strip that resembles the figure 7 very distinctly. Seven proves to be the answer to everybody's problem, regardless of the fact that each person thought of a different number to begin with. To obtain the effect with the paper the reader must add a few drops of nitric acid to a sufficient quantity of asbestos paint and with a brush outline the figure on the paper and allow it to dry. This, of course, must be done prior to giving the exhibition. Seven will always be the answer if the above formula is employed.—Scientific American.

Lawn Bowls.

Each player is provided with two balls gray colored, a little larger than tennis balls. A white ball called Jack is first thrown to the end of the lawn. The players who stand at this end aim to send their balls so they may lie as close to the white ball as possible. Sides and colors are chosen. The side whose balls are nearest to the white ball counts one point for each ball so placed. Seven, fourteen or twenty-one makes a game, as agreed upon before beginning.

The art of bowling in this play consists in knocking away the opponent's balls from their positions near the Jack or in striking the Jack itself from among them; also in bowling nearer than any other without disturbing one's own balls.

This game does not require much space, but the ground must be level, grass short and well mowed.

Girls and even women enjoy this play.

A Costly Bean.

The vanilla bean is said to be the costliest bean on earth. It's home is in Mexico, chiefly in Papantla and Misantla. It grows wild and is gathered solely by natives. Just as they come from the wilderness of forests the beans sell at \$10 per 1,000. After they are dried and cured they are worth from \$10 to \$11 per pound, according to their quality. They are used extensively by druggists and confectioners and form quite an important Mexican product.

Nonsense.

One whispers to his neighbor an article, the next one an adjective, next a singular noun, verb, adverb, a number, adjective and plural noun. The last one whispers to the first. Each says aloud what he has heard, and a complete sentence is formed.

A Dangerous Game.

A doggie whose name was Theophilus Tray Tore a hat and two shoes into rags t'other day.

"You have had a nice game, but there's trouble ahead. When they see what you've done," Mrs. Pussy Cat said.

Then she smiled to herself, and she chuckled: "Ho, hee! What he'll get he'll deserve, always barking at me!"

Making the Little Farm Pay

By C. C. BOWSFIELD



A SILO is needed on the small dairy farm more than anywhere else. It does away with the need of a large pasture and insures a full milk supply during summer droughts.

Fodder preserved in a concrete silo is safe from fire and waste and retains the maximum food value. The cost of building a silo with a capacity of 150 tons need not exceed \$300. It varies according to the supply of labor. Concrete costs little more than wood and is so much better in every way that it is confidently recommended. No fodder is relished so much by stock as silage. Its influence is beneficial to the animal system, is invigorating and prevents cripples and impaction. Succulent silage makes for good health and heavy milk flow. It is equally good for poultry and hogs.

Corn is the most suitable of all crops for silage. It should be harvested when the bottom leaves are drying off and the grain is doughy and glazing. Without hurrying the work of filling the silo, the best method is to ensile the crop as soon as it is harvested, cutting the stalks and cobs into small bits. The grain is more or less macerated in the cutter.

The fodder thus treated is carried by means of an elevator or blower, which should deliver the material as near the center of the silo as possible. This may be done by the aid of a bag chute attached to the mouth of the elevator or the blower.

The labor of distributing the fodder is thus minimized, and an even supply of the material will be distributed all over the silo. If the fodder be allowed to fall direct from the mouth of the conveyor the heaviest parts will fall on one side and the lighter parts on the other. The silage will not settle evenly, and loss will eventually. To assist in close packing it is absolutely essential to trample the product all over the silo. Trampling the sides or around the edges is not sufficient, for with the shrinking of the center the outer edges creep toward it and away from the walls, thus allowing access of air and consequent loss. The center should always be kept a little higher than the outer edges. The rate of filling should be six to eight feet per day. Quicker filling than this may result in generating too much heat, in which case the silage is liable to decompose.

After the silo has been filled the fodder should be covered with a light framework or coarse sheet and weighted down. This is done to keep out air, and after the silo has been opened for use in the spring or summer it is best to replace this top covering after each day's supply is taken out. Avoid, as far as practicable, sinking holes in the silage. In fact, keep as little of the silage exposed to the air as possible.

The daily ration of silage for a dairy cow is from thirty to forty pounds when fed with other fodders; when there is some grass available thirty pounds per day is ample. Sheep will eat as much as three pounds a day. It is advisable to give horses small quantities only of silage; otherwise there may be trouble from stomach derangements. Limit the amount fed to a few pounds per day. Pigs and poultry will eat small quantities.

Silage may be made of all plants that animals are permitted to eat in the green state, and such fodder preserved by this means loses but little of its feeding properties in the process. In one way there is a slight improvement. That is, the tougher fiber of siloed fodder is softened and made thereby more digestible and acceptable to animals.

However, there is great risk in putting vegetables in a silo if a dairy is kept. The milk is apt to be tainted. Oats, rye, millet and alfalfa work well in connection with corn, but the latter is the main staple and may be used by itself.

EIGHT HOUR DAY ON FARMS.

A writer in Farm and Fireside says that the eight hour day with farmers consists of eight hours for work and eight hours for chores.

GROWN IN LEGAL SOIL.

A deaf mute is not incapable of entering into contracts if shown to have sufficient mental capacity.—Alex versus Matzke, Mich 115 N. W. Rep. 251.

Generally every partner is under obligation to exercise due diligence and reasonable skill and devote his services to the promotion of the common benefit of the firm without compensation by way of wages or salary unless otherwise agreed upon.

The United States patent law requires a person applying for a patent to make oath that he does verily believe himself to be the original and first inventor or discoverer of the art, machine, manufacture, composition or improvement for which he solicits a patent and that he does not know and does not believe that the same was ever before known or used.

DON'T LET CROPS "FIGHT."

Professor Taylor of the agricultural economics department of the University of Wisconsin agricultural experiment station says no single farm crop grown in Wisconsin keeps the farm labor busy all the time, but by a proper combination of crops employment of labor can be extended materially throughout the year. There are, however, limits to diversification. For instance, corn and tobacco require labor at the same time for planting and cultivation and are therefore competing crops, but tobacco furnishes winter employment to labor when there is a scarcity of employment, and therefore to this extent these crops are noncompeting or complementary. The use of non-competing crops may well extend the operations of the farm.

ROTATION AND STOCK.

Two Work Together to Bring Greater Profit to the Farmer.

In a bulletin of the North Dakota station R. C. Donehue says of live stock in the general plan of crop rotation:

"In regions of light rainfall the maintenance of the organic matter of soils is the most practical method of increasing their water holding capacity. The plant remains, straw, stubble, etc., in these sections decay very slowly, and much care is necessary in returning organic matter to these soils.

"If live stock is fed on the farm and the straw and other refuse are worked into the manure it will decay faster when returned to the land. While a rotation can be used with profit if live stock is not kept, it is much easier to return the organic matter contained in the crop residues when they are fed on the farm.

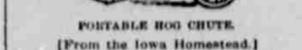
"Live stock is not absolutely necessary when beginning a rotation, but for the average conditions when they are kept the profits will be greater. A rotation may be followed without the return of the organic matter for a time, but eventually it must be returned. If not returned in manure more expensive methods must be used."

PUT THE HOG IN THIS.

Homemade Contrivance Good Also For Moving Other Heavy Objects.

Here is the handiest hog chute we ever have seen, and it can be arranged out of an ordinary chute by taking a couple of cultivator or any other small wheels and putting them a little over midway of the floor from the rear end, says the Iowa Homestead.

While any piece of strong timber will make a suitable axle for bearing up the chute, an axle from some old discarded spring wagon or buggy will



PORTABLE HOG CHUTE.
[From the Iowa Homestead.]

last practically a lifetime and prove much more satisfactory than a wood axle. When it is desired to move the chute all that is necessary is to tilt the rear end and push the frame to the desired position, instead of the old, cumbersome method of tugging and dragging it around to where it was wanted.

If the wheels are kept well greased or oiled and if the chute is not too heavy one can use it for moving heavy articles around that could not be carried by hand.

The Value of Limestone.

"As valuable as lime is on the farm when the correction of acid soils is necessary it is not necessary to pay exorbitant prices for it," said Porter Elliot of the College of Agriculture, Ohio State university. "At recent extension schools during the discussion of soil liming it developed that farmers were paying as high as \$9 a ton for carbonate of lime when ground limestone, which would do the work just as well, could be secured for less than a third of that cost. Get good ground limestone, and it will correct acidity just as readily as the best carbonate of lime you can find on the market. The farm profits will not increase until such useless waste is eliminated from the farm practices."

"GARDEN TRUCK."

The ground dries out more quickly under a high headed tree and more fruit is blown off by the wind.

Manure the rhubarb and asparagus fields. Both crops are the best where there is an abundance of vegetable matter in the soil.

Asparagus roots, properly planted, fertilized and given good culture, will continue to produce large spears for fifteen to twenty years in succession.

If the currant or gooseberry bushes become infested with worms the pest can be abated by dusting the bushes with powdered white hellebore or spraying them with a solution made by adding the hellebore at the rate of a tablespoonful to a quart of water.

Lime dust around garden plants will keep away snails. They may also be trapped by putting cabbage leaves, lettuce or bits of raw potato about the infested plants, leaving over night and then removing and destroying the snails harbored by the trap material.

MILKING SHORTHORNS FOR THE NORTHWEST

(By PROF. THOS. SHAW.)

There is now in the quarantine at South Quebec the largest importation of milking Shorthorns ever brought to America. Heretofore only a few individuals of this class have ever crossed the Atlantic for this country. These cattle were purchased in England by Mr. J. J. Hill, and will be brought to his North Oaks farm not far from St. Paul. Mr. Hill is a strong believer in the value of the two purpose cow, that is, the cow for milk and also for beef, usually spoken of now as the dual purpose cow, and of cows of this class he regards none as superior to the milking Shorthorn, called in Britain the dairy Shorthorn. He believes that this type of cow is one that is admirably suited to the needs of the average farmer, and in this he is unquestionably right, notwithstanding the teaching of many in our experiment stations to the contrary.

Many in those stations have taught that there was no place for the dual cow on the farm. They have said she was "a myth, a delusion and a snare." They have claimed that to keep her on the farm was like "going to hunt prairie chickens with a bull pup," or like "riding into battle on a heavy draught horse." Those men were honest in their statements, but they simply did not know. They thought they knew, but they were mistaken. Moreover, they claimed that dual cattle could not be bred. For twenty-five years some of those men have been diligently propagating that nonsense, and the public funds have borne the expense.

The folly of such teaching will be apparent from the following: In England there is today an association for promoting the interests of this breed. This association has now 185 members. In 1912 it published the records of milk production from 234 females, of which quite a percentage were heifers with their first lactation period.

The average of milk production from these was between 7,000 and 8,000 pounds for the year. Some went higher than 13,000 pounds. At Kelso, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, the owner, Robert Hobbs, has kept milking Shorthorns constantly since 1873. The herd now numbers nearly 200 cows in milk. Since 1908 the average of all these, including a large lot of heifers, in milk production has been considerably more than 6,000 pounds each year. The cow Dukie 7th, with a one-year milk record ending May 31, 1913, gave 13,533 pounds, and the cow Rose 57th 14,277 pounds. Many other instances of similar production may be cited. Cows of this breed stand first in the milking trials of the shows more frequently than those of any other breed, including the milking breeds.

While the production of milk is thus highly satisfactory, all the males not wanted for beef are grown into bullocks. They are reared on skim milk and adjusted during the milk period. They are sold at the age of eighteen to thirty months. At twenty-four months they usually average not less than 1,200 pounds, and sell for \$100 to \$125 each. They are favorites with the butcher, as there is less loss in cutting up the carcass than with bullocks reared on the dams. There is a larger proportion of lean and less undesirable fat on the hand reared steers. It is a fact that fully 80 per cent of the milk used in Britain comes from pure and grade Shorthorns and nearly as high a percentage of the meat. Mr. Powell, the venerable secretary of the Shorthorn association, told the writer that even many of the breeders of Scotch Shorthorns are now milking their herds. Think of the prices which those cattle bring. At the dispersal sale of Garrett Taylor last year 183 females of all ages sold for an average of \$83, 168, 54. The people of Argentina, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia are now buying these cattle in large numbers, and yet the wise men of our stations claim that they can't be bred.

Mr. Hill's Shorthorn importation consists of twenty-eight animals, of which three are males. The females are young cows from two to six years old. They are all now milking and will calve again in due time. Individually they rank high, having been chosen with much care. They have milk records running from 6,900 to 19,900 pounds a year.

There is certainly large room for this class of cattle in all the Northwestern states. This does not mean that there is no place for the dairy breeds. There is a wide place also for the dairy breeds, but viewed from the standpoint of the present and prospective demand for beef there is a much larger place for dual cattle. This in future must come from the arable farm, and it must come mainly from dual cattle that will be milked.

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